

NEWS

From the Office of

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County Seeks \$100 Million to Help Expand Adelanto Jail

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on March 4 will consider a request to the State of California, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Corrections Standards Authority, requesting funding in the amount of \$100,000,000 to help add 1,368 additional jail beds to the Adelanto Detention Center county jail.

"This jail expansion project is one of my top priorities because it means we'll be able to keep more criminals off the street," said Supervisor Mitzelfelt, who pushed for the expansion. "More jail space means we'll avoid early releases and keep inmates behind bars where they belong."

On May 3, 2007, the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007 became law. Among its provisions, state agencies are authorized to enter into agreements with participating counties for the acquisition, design and construction of local jail facilities. Up to \$1.2 billion is authorized by the legislation for county jail construction.

Funds are being distributed in two phases. Under Phase I, up to \$750 million in funding is available through a competitive process. San Bernardino County may request State funding up to \$100 million, but must commit to a minimum of 25% of the total project cost as matching funds. The Adelanto expansion project is expected to cost \$144,094,000. The County would provide the remaining \$44,000,000 matching funds.

"When I urged the board to increase this expansion plan by 50 percent, I was confident that Sheriff Gary Penrod could help us secure substantial assistance from the new funds set aside by the state," Mitzelfelt said. "When the board agreed with my proposal to move forward now with both phases, we set in motion a project that will almost triple the Adelanto jail's capacity."

The jail currently has capacity for 706 inmates. The addition of 1,368 beds would nearly triple the capacity of this facility to 2,074 beds, and increase countywide jail capacity from 6,220 to 7,588. The project includes construction of three multi-story housing units, each designed to hold 456 inmates. The project also includes an inmate services building to provide inmate booking and release areas, property storage, medical screening, inmate holding cells, video arraignment and medical offices. The proposal also expands the food storage capacity of the jail.

"Expanding the jail will result in Sheriff Deputies spending less time transporting inmates to jail for their initial bookings and to court later," added Mitzelfelt. "This will result in Deputies spending more time patrolling our streets."

In addition to the Adelanto expansion, plans are also being developed to expand the Glen Helen Rehabilitation Center near Devore. The Glen Helen facility currently houses 1,394 inmates.